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**AG STEVE MARSHALL PRESENTS COOSA VALLEY ACADEMY
WITH 2017 SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

School Receives Award for Third Year in a Row

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall today presented Coosa Valley Academy with the Attorney General’s Safe School Initiative Award of Excellence for a private school in the central region of Alabama. Schools were selected as winners for 2017 from seven* Alabama State School Board of Education districts, as well as private schools for three regions of the state.

“In these times, we are all intensely aware of the serious responsibility our schools carry for the safekeeping of our children,” said Attorney General Marshall. “Recent events have been heartbreaking reminders that we must remain vigilant and committed to provide the best protections possible in Alabama’s schools. I am pleased to carry on this important tradition of the Attorney General’s Office, to recognize schools throughout our state for dedication and excellence in keeping students safe. Each day that parents leave their children at school, they are entrusting what they hold most precious into the care of schoolteachers, principals, school resource officers and other staff. With these awards, we honor those who have achieved particularly high standards and set examples that others may follow. We are grateful for their service and commitment to protecting the children of Alabama.”

In presenting the award today Attorney General Marshall said, “The Attorney General’s Office is proud that Coosa Valley Academy has been selected for the third year in a row as one of the winning schools in Alabama for 2017. In making this decision, judges noted many things that distinguished Coosa Valley Academy: the school’s emergency ‘Go Bags,’ a large number of security cameras, and excellent communication with law enforcement and parents about how to get information if an emergency arises.”

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Headmaster Pamela Lovelady said, "Coosa Valley Academy has received the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative Awards of Excellence for the third consecutive year and we appreciate the recognition today from Attorney General Steve Marshall. Coosa Valley Academy strives each day to commit to provide the utmost protection for our most valuable assets which are our children. We are honored to be part of the Alabama Safe School Initiative Program that allows us to review and enhance our safe school policy. Our community organizations continue to be instrumental in the implementations of Coosa Valley Academy's School Safety Program, which include the Harpersville Police Chief Jimmy Macon, Harpersville Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Mayor Don Greene, Shelby County Emergency Management Agency, Coosa Valley Academy Board of Directors, staff, and students. This award is an honor for our school, students, parents, and community. Together we continue to strive for excellence in assuring a safe educational environment. This process is ongoing as we continue to meet the safety demands of our school."

Attorney General Marshall is presenting awards for the 2017 Safe School Awards of Excellence winners to the 10 winning schools during April and May. Other winning schools throughout the state include Nichols-Lawson Middle School in Sylacauga, Opelika Middle School in Lee County, Pine Level Elementary School in Autauga County, Satsuma High School in Mobile County, Austin High School in Morgan County, Simmons Middle School in Jefferson County, Bob Jones High School in Madison County, Sumiton Christian School in Walker County and The Lakeside School in Barbour County.

**Alabama has eight public school districts but no submissions were received from District 4.*